

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 204136  
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW  
AMEMBASSY SOFIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 204136

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, EALR, CSCE, NATO, XX, ECE, XH

SUBJECT: ECONADS: FUTURE WORK PROGRAM

REPEATED FOR YOUR INFORMATION IS NATO 7031.

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SUBJECT: ECONADS: FUTURE WORK PROGRAM

REFS (A) STATE 168470; (B) STATE 163161

SUMMARY. AT JULY 20 ECONADS, COMMITTEE AGREED ON WORK  
PROGRAM. SCHEDULE FOR EXPERTS MEETINGS PROPOSED BY US  
(REF B) WAS ACCEPTED WITH SEVERAL SUGGESTED CHANGES.

DIRECTORATE WILL ISSUE REVISED SCHEDULE. FRENCH RECOMMENDED THAT EXPERTS MEETINGS BE RESTRICTED TO GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE AS INDICATED BELOW.

END SUMMARY.

1. AT JULY 20 ECONADS MEETING, MOST REPS AGREED THAT CSCE EXPERTS MEETING SHOULD BE SCHEDULED IN FIRST HALF OF SEPTEMBER. ITALIAN (GRICCIOLI) AND CANADIAN (LUNN), HOWEVER, REITERATED THEIR PREFERENCES FOR A LATER DATE.

2. CHAIRMAN BILLY NOTED THAT POLITICAL COMMITTEE MIGHT SCHEDULE CSCE EXPERTS MEETING IN EARLY SEPTEMBER AND SUGGESTED THAT ECONADS SCHEDULE ITS MEETING ON THE DAY BEFORE THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE'S EXPERT MEETING. ONCE POLITICAL COMMITTEE FIXES THE DATE FOR ITS MEETING, BILLY WILL SUGGEST SPECIFIC DATE FOR ECONADS EXPERT MEETING.

3. FRENCH REP (MATHONNET) REHEARSED FRENCH VIEW THAT CSCE EXPERTS MEETING SHOULD NOT STRIVE TO COORDINATE ALLIED POSITIONS, BUT MERELY EXCHANGE INFORMATION.

4. ECONADS AGREED TO SCHEDULE BACK-TO-BACK MEETINGS ON SOV/EE ENERGY AND SOVIET ECONOMY ON OCTOBER 26-28. SESSION ON OCTOBER 26 WOULD BEGIN IN THE AFTERNOON. FIRST TWO HALF DAYS WOULD BE DEVOTED TO ENERGY TOPIC.  
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5. DECEMBER MEETING ON SOVIET MERCHANT SHIPPING WAS SCHEDULED ON DECEMBER 15-16. COMMITTEE PREFERRED TO HOLD THIS MEETING AFTER MINISTERIAL.

6. EXCEPT FOR COLLOQUIUM (SEPTTEL) NO SPECIFIC DATES WERE PUT FORWARD FOR 1978 MEETINGS. THEIR SCHEDULING WILL BE TAKEN UP IN SEPTEMBER AFTER SUMMER RECESS.

7. FRENCH REP SUGGESTED THAT BECAUSE OF PERTINENCE OF SOVIET BALANCE OF PAYMENTS (BOP) TO E-W STUDY, THIS TOPIC SHOULD BE MOVED FORWARD TO FEBRUARY, US REP POINTED OUT THAT US SUGGESTED APRIL MEETING IN ORDER TO COMPLETE PAPER THAT COULD SERVE AS US CONTRIBUTION. AS COMPROMISE, UK REP (POWLES) SUGGESTED SWITCHING DISCUSSION OF EFFECTS OF INFLATION ON ALLIED DEFENSE EXPENDITURES TO APRIL, AND DISCUSSION OF SOVIET BOP TO MARCH. (COMMENT: IF OER PAPER OR DRAFT IS READY IN MARCH, IT MAY BE FEASIBLE TO SCHEDULE SOVIET BOP TOPIC IN LATE MARCH. SUCH A CHANGE IN SCHEDULING WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO FRENCH. END COMMENT)

8. FRENCH REP ALSO COMMENTED THAT HIS AUTHORITIES DID NOT

THINK IT ADVISABLE TO INVITE PERSONS FROM PRIVATE SECTOR (I.E. BANKERS) TO SOVIET BOP EXPERTS MEETING. ONLY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS SHOULD PARTICIPATE. FRENCH AGREED, HOWEVER,

THAT NON-GOVERNMENT PEOPLE SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE COLLOQUIUM. (COMMENT: AFTER MEETING, UK REP SAID THAT PERSONALLY HE DOUBTED WHETHER HIS AUTHORITIES WOULD CONSIDER THE SOVIET BOP MEETING WORTHWHILE WITHOUT THE PARTICIPATION OF PRIVATE BANKERS, AND INTENDED TO REQUEST LONDON'S GUIDANCE. WE WOULD APPRECIATE WASHINGTON'S VIEWS. END COMMENT)

9. TO FACILITATE ATTENDANCE AT ANY REVIEW OF THE ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE OF EE COUNTRIES BY BRITISH EMBASSY OFFICERS  
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IN EASTERN EUROPE, UK REP SUGGESTED THAT MEETING HAVE TWO DISTINCT, BUT CONSECUTIVE, PARTS. FIRST WOULD CONSIDER POLAND/GDR/CZECHOSLOVAKIA, AND SECOND, ROMANIA/BULGARIA/HUNGARY. (COMMENT: WE SEE NO PROBLEM WITH THIS PROPOSAL. US OBJECTIVES OF SCHEDULING ONE MEETING FOR EE ECONOMIES WOULD BE PRESERVED. END COMMENT)

10. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE FOR SEPTEMBER 1 ECONADS REGARDING: (1) ACCEPTABILITY OF SCHEDULING CSCE EXPERTS MEETING DAY BEFORE POSSIBLE SPECIAL POLADS MEETING (SEE REFTEL), (2) CONFIRMATION THAT OCTOBER 26-28 DATES FOR SOV/EE ENERGY AND SOVIET ECONOMY ARE AGREEABLE, (3) CONCURRENCE IN DECEMBER 15-16 DATES FOR SOVIET MERCHANT SHIPPING MEETING, (4) ACCEPTABILITY OF HOLDING SOVIET BOP MEETING IN MARCH AND EFFECTS OF INFLATION ON ALLIED DEFENSE EXPENDITURES MEETING IN APRIL, (5) U.S. POSITION ON INVITING NON-GOVERNMENT PERSONS TO SOVIET BOP AND OTHER EXPERTS MEETINGS IN VIEW OF FRENCH SUGGESTION TO EXCLUDE THEM, (6) CONCURRENCE IN DIVIDING MEETING ON EE ECONOMIES INTO TWO PARTS. BENNETT. UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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